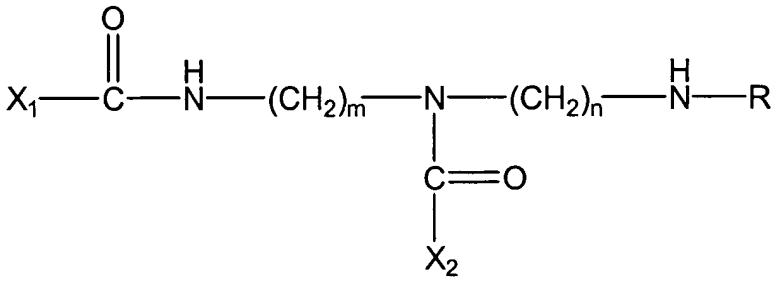
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Canceled)

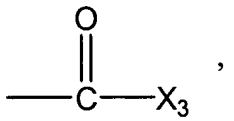
28. (currently amended) A composition for delivering an agent to cells,. the composition comprising the agent and a delivery enhancing compound of Formula I:



I

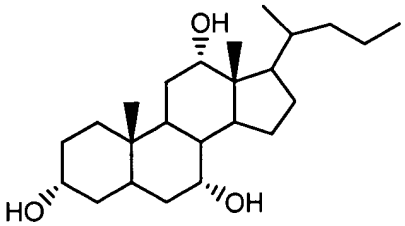
wherein:

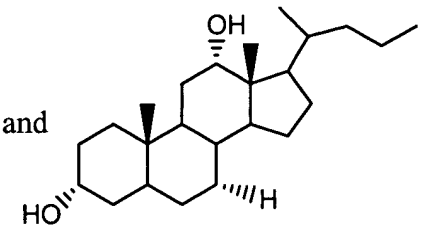
m and n are the same or different and each is an integer from 2-8; R **[[is]]** forms a cationic group with the nitrogen to which it is bound, or



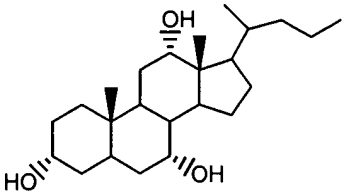
,

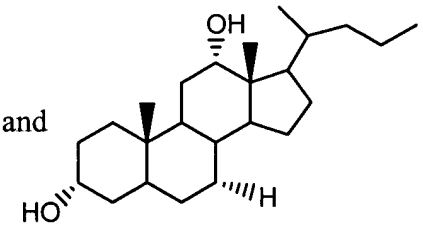
X_1 is selected from the group consisting of



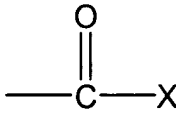
and  ;

X_2, and X_3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of a saccharide group,



and  ;

wherein at least one of X_2 and X_3 is a saccharide group when R is

 , and wherein said agent is a member selected from the group consisting of a therapeutic protein, a therapeutic genes, a vector and an antisense nucleic acid.

29. (currently amended) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the saccharide group ~~comprises one or more pentose or hexose residues~~ has between one to eight monosaccharide groups.

30. (original) The composition according to claim 29, wherein the saccharide group is selected from the group consisting of pentose monosaccharide groups, hexose monosaccharide groups, pentose-pentose disaccharide groups, hexose-

hexose disaccharide groups, pentose-hexose disaccharide groups, and hexose-pentose disaccharide groups.

31. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the saccharide group is a trisaccharide.

32. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the concentration of the delivery enhancing compound is about 0.002 to about 2 mg/ml.

33. (original) The composition according to claim 32, wherein the concentration of the delivery enhancing compound is about 0.2 to 2 mg/ml.

34. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the agent modulates a biological process in a cell when the agent is present in the cell.

35. (original) The composition according to claim 34, wherein the biological process is selected from the group consisting of cell growth, differentiation, proliferation, a metabolic or biosynthetic pathway, gene expression, a disease-associated process, and an immune response.

36. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the agent comprises a polynucleotide.

37. (original) The composition according to claim 36, wherein the polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an antisense nucleic acid, a triplex-forming nucleic acid, and a nucleic acid that comprises a gene which encodes a polypeptide.

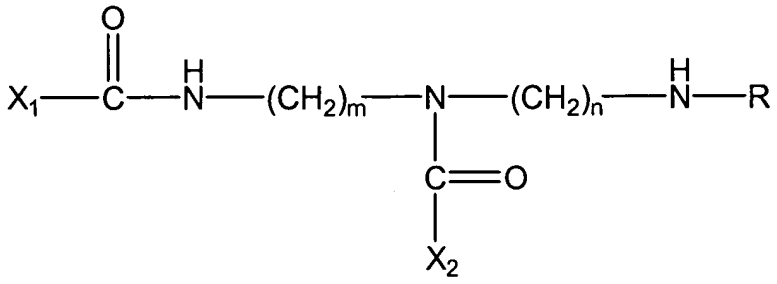
38. (original) The composition according to claim 37, wherein the gene is a tumor suppressor gene.

39. (original) The composition according to claim 37, wherein the tumor suppressor gene is selected from the group consisting of a retinoblastoma gene and a p53 gene.

40. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the composition further comprises a polymeric matrix.

41. (original) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the composition further comprises a mucoadhesive.

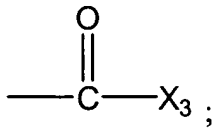
42. (currently amended) A delivery enhancing compound having a Formula I:



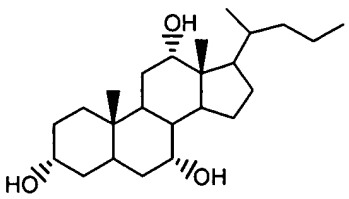
I

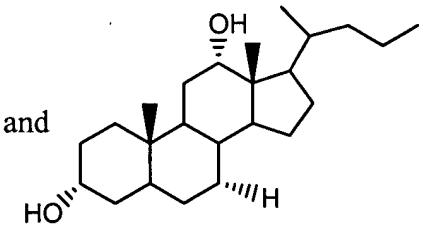
wherein:

m and n are the same or different and each is an integer from 2-8; R **[[is]]** <u>forms a cationic group with the nitrogen to which it is bound</u>, or

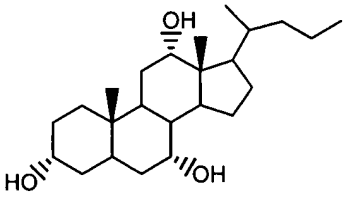


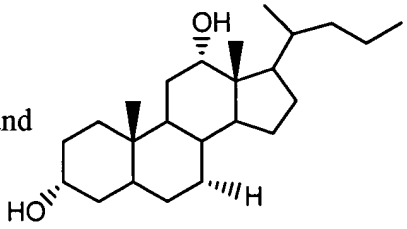
X_1 is selected from the group consisting of:



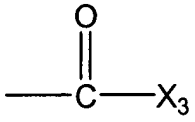
and  ;

X_2, and X_3 are each independently selected from the group consisting of a saccharide group,



and  ;

wherein at least one of X_2 and X_3 is a saccharide group when R is



43. (currently amended) The compound of claim 42, wherein R **[[is]]** forms a cationic group selected from the group consisting of NMe_3^+ and NH_3^+.

44. (currently amended) The compound of claim 42, wherein the saccharide group ~~**comprises one or more pentose or hexose residues**~~ has between one to eight monosaccharide groups.

45. (original) The compound of claim 44, wherein the saccharide group is selected from the group consisting of pentose monosaccharide groups, hexose monosaccharide groups, pentose-pentose disaccharide groups, hexose-hexose

disaccharide groups, pentose-hexose disaccharide groups, and hexose-pentose disaccharide groups.

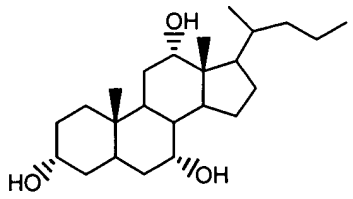
46. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein the saccharide group comprises between three and about eight monosaccharide residues.

47. (original) The compound of claim 46, wherein the saccharide group is a trisaccharide.

48. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein at least one of X_2 and X_3 is a saccharide group.

49. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein m and n are each independently 2 or 3.

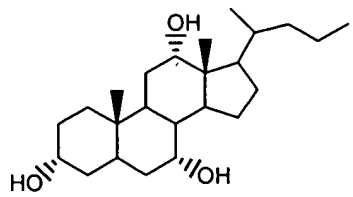
50. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein both X_1 and X_2 are both



and X_3 is a saccharide group.

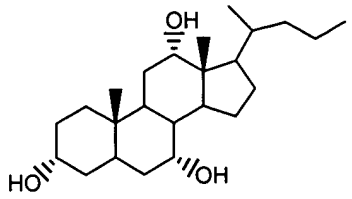
51. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein the saccharide group is a hexose-hexose disaccharide group.

52. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein m and n are each 3, X_1 and X_2 are both



and X_3 is a hexose monosaccharide group.

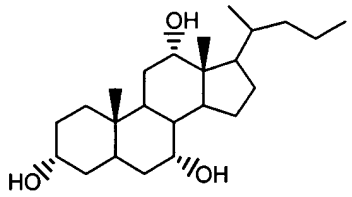
53. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein m and n are each 3, X_1 and X_3 are both



,

and X_2 is a hexose monosaccharide group.

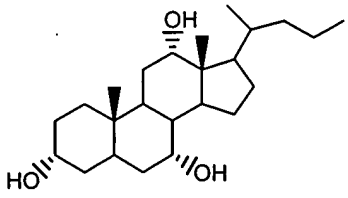
54. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein m and n are each 3, X_1 and X_2 are both



,

and X_3 is a hexose-hexose disaccharide group.

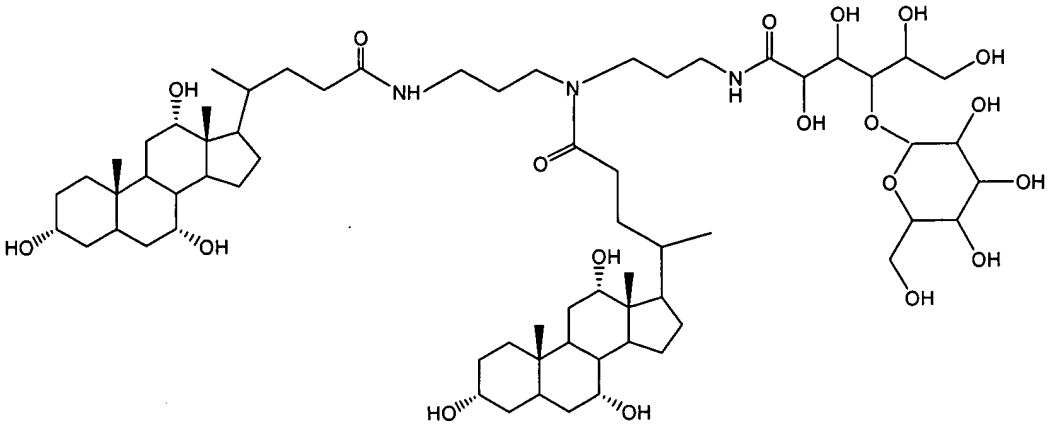
55. (original) The compound of claim 42, wherein m and n are each 3, X_1 and X_3 are both



, and

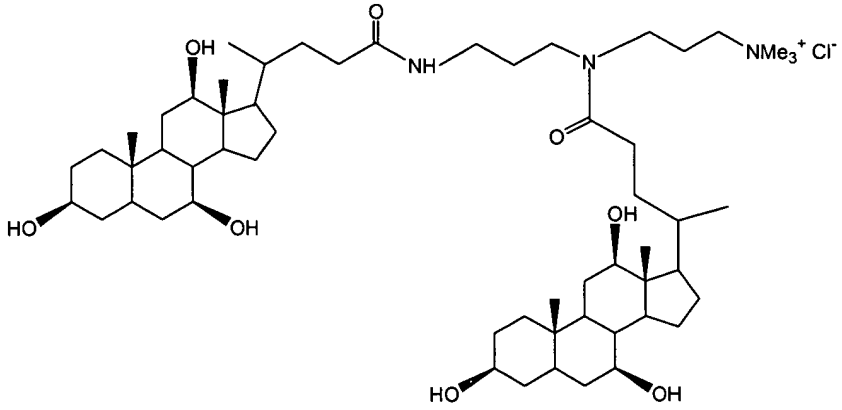
X_2 is a hexose-hexose disaccharide group.

56. (previously presented) The compound according to claim 42, wherein the compound has a Formula III:



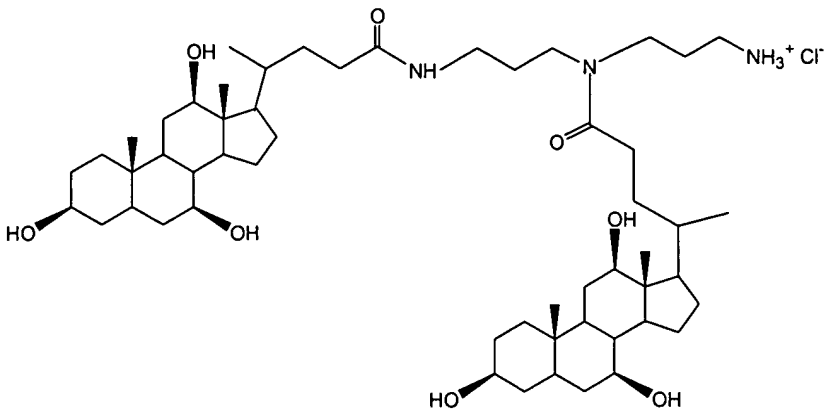
III.

57. (original) The compound according to claim 42, wherein the compound has a Formula IV:



IV.

58. (original) The compound according to claim 42, wherein the compound has a Formula V:



V.

59-81. (Canceled)

82. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 28, wherein the agent is a gene encoding interferon.

83. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 82, wherein the interferon is a member of the group selected from α–interferon, β–interferon, δ–interferon, and γ interferon.

84. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 83, wherein the interferon is α–interferon.

85. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 83, wherein the gene is incorporated into a vector.

86. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 83, wherein the vector is a recombinant viral vector.

87. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 83, wherein the recombinant viral vector is selected from the group consisting of a herpes viral vector, retroviral vector, vaccinia viral vector and an adenoviral vector

88. (previously presented) The composition according to claim 87, wherein the recombinant viral vector is an adenoviral vector.